

Westly, Austin

From: Laura Nolan <nolan3116@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 4:11 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Proposed Bay Ave-Hill St all way stop controlled intersection changes

Hello,

I am a 40 year resident of the Riverview Terrace neighborhood in Capitola.

I live on Center Street, behind Nob Hill. I drive the Bay Avenue/Porter Street corridor several times a day.

I understand the importance of making this corridor safe for all users: drives, walkers, and bicyclists. However, **I strongly urge you not to do anything that will make the traffic on this busy corridor back up any more than it already does.** I turn onto Bay Avenue off of Center Street several times a day. I strongly believe any action taken to reduce the lanes at the Bay Ave-Hill St all way stop will result in traffic backed up past Center St which will make an already difficult turn almost impossible.

My suggestion is to put the flashing pedestrian crossing lights at the Bay Ave-Hill St all way stop. These flashing lights will effectively notify drivers when pedestrians are actually in the cross walk. I am sure these lights can be adjusted to allow enough time for pedestrians, even slow ones, to safely cross.

Also, please do not add any more stop lights between Capitola Road and Main Street on this corridor There are already 3 stop lights in this short stretch of road. More stop lights will result in even more backed up traffic.

Laura Nolan

p.s. As an aside, many years ago a median was installed on Bay Avenue, going up the hill from the all way stop toward Gayle's. This median created a right turn only lane. A fairly narrow one. This median frequently confuses drivers who think they continue on Bay Avenue on it. When they find out they can't, they have to make an abrupt merge into the lane that does do through. I use that right turn lane every day and have to be extra careful for drivers that are making that abrupt lane change. Also, as long as I'm at it, the landscaping in that median is always an eye-sore, City public works staff never seem to to weed, trim, or plant in it.

Westly, Austin

From: Katharine Parker <katharinep3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 11:47 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Items A, B and C City Council Agenda

To the City Council,

Tonight you're discussing a number of issues important to many members of the Capitola community.

Under Item A, the Wharf has been a community icon and gathering place for many years. For that reason a dedicated group of citizens has mounted an effective campaign to raise monies for projects that will make the rebuilt wharf even more special than the original rebuild..."icing on the cake" if you will. Individuals and businesses donated monies thinking that we're supporting these special projects; we trusted that the governmental funds allotted for the wharf's rebuild would cover the original rebuild plans. Please do not allow the Wharf Resiliency Fund to be used in other ways or you'll discourage future community fundraising efforts such as this one.

Under Item B, a street design that further limits the number of lanes will only increase the type of aggressive driving that I've seen increase in the past few years. Drivers often zoom up the right hand lane (going towards Highway 1) then wedge themselves into the left turn lane to get onto Highway 1 North. Especially during the am and pm school commute, traffic often backs up from the Highway 1 off and on ramps past Gayles all the way to Park Avenue. It can take me 20 minutes to get from Park and Monterey Ave. intersection to Highway 1. Now many drivers go onto Rosedale up to Hill and around and I guarantee you many more will do so if traffic is further restricted. Another problem is the right turn lane at Monterey and Park Avenue (turning onto Park) is poorly marked; many people in the right lane go straight ...luckily we locals know to watch for that. In sum, the whole of Bay/Monterey deserves more study for traffic improvements. Perhaps flashing lights on the crosswalk like the one on Capitola Avenue near the DMV would suffice for now; they seems to work well.

Under Item C, the long term drainage study being submitted does virtually nothing to address the multiple drains from Depot Hill directly into the bay. They are shown on several maps and that's it. When the study mentions study of various drains, their capacities, their conditions, how much they typically disperse...I think they didn't even look at any of these drains (in fact they show two and there are at least three). The drain near Grand and Saxon failed within the cliff over ten years ago; its "temporary" fix is still in place. A drainage study paid for by some Depot Hill homeowners was submitted to the City over ten years ago and is probably still in City archives. These drains are ugly, they spew water like fire hoses directly onto the cliff during rainstorms, and deliver water directly from city streets into the Bay. They should at least be a part of any area drainage study.

Democracy is slow...it's a pain to have to hear from many citizens with a variety of ideas...but hopefully it helps us consider all alternatives and come up with the best outcomes.

Respectfully,

Katharine and Tom Parker
Capitola
Sent from my iPad